

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Summary of the Medicaid Mechanical Ventilator Waiver Renewal

Objective: To meet Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements by submitting a five-year renewal for the Medicaid mechanical ventilator waiver program.

Background: The mechanical ventilator waiver is a home and community based waiver established in 1994. The current waiver serves Medicaid participants age 21 or older who meet the nursing facility level of care and are ventilator dependent. In the absence of the services provided through this waiver, people are at great risk of extended placement in a hospital setting or sub-acute care in a nursing facility. Services offered in this waiver include in-home nursing, personal care, respite, home accessibility adaptations, specialized medical supplies and equipment, incontinence supplies, personal emergency response systems, attendant care, and two additional prescription medications. The State must demonstrate that the cost of these services will not exceed the cost of institutional services in the absence of this waiver.

The direct administration of this waiver is through the thirteen regional South Carolina Department of Health and Human Service (SCDHHS) offices around the State, each of which covers designated counties of South Carolina. Registered nurses working in these 13 areas are responsible for ensuring that participants are aware of their options within the waiver and can make informed choices as to which service(s) they prefer.

Minor changes are being made in the service package with this renewal. One change will make available additional incontinence supplies. Also, this waiver will no longer have a dollar cap on the amount allowed for home modifications. The waiver will continue to include self-direction options.

The waiver application will allow up to 60 participants in the first year and up to 92 participants in the last year of this renewal. From past experience fewer than this number will qualify for this waiver and need the services we provide. Currently, there are fewer than 35 participants on any given day.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: The waiver reduces overall Medicaid expenditures compared to the cost of providing sub-acute care for waiver participants. The current daily rate for sub-acute care is \$215 per day.

The most recent expenditure and utilization data (based on 05-06 CMS 372 report data) are:

Unduplicated Count of Participants	Average Waiver Expenditures per Participant	Average Acute Expenditures per Participant	Total Average Expenditures per Participant	Total Waiver Expenditures
48	\$19,760	\$20,742	\$40,502	\$948,516

Comments: The full waiver is available for review on the SCDHHS website. On August 28, SCDHHS will convene a public forum to discuss the renewal of this waiver program. This forum will be held at the offices of SC-AARP, 1201 Main Street, 12th floor, Columbia, SC at 3:30pm. Please provide any comments you have on the renewal of the Mechanical Ventilation Waiver to: Sam Waldrep (waldrep@scdhhs.gov) by August 28, 2007.